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UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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Students' Union spreads holiday cheer

Students organize party for city kids

By Ileiren Byles

The second floor of the University of Alberta Students' Union Building was a rumble of enthusiastic little feet, young voices and a whole heap of holiday spirit earlier this month.

On Dec. 8, nearly 400 students from St. Jerome and St. Elizabeth elementary schools helped ring in the Christmas season at the 12th annual Students' Union Christmas Party for Kids. Students from both schools dined on pizza, made Christmas crafts, decorated cookies and sang Christmas carols with abandon, all the while shepherded by more than 150 student volunteers.

"We do believe in giving back to the community. Edmonton gives a lot to us. This is an opportunity where we as a student organization can give back to the city of Edmonton and give back to the kids."

— Omer Yusuf

"I think the volunteers are having as much fun as the kids," laughed Omer Yusuf, SU vice-president (student life). "There's no denying, looking at the grins on all their faces, that they're loving it. We actually have a few volunteers this year who came to this event with their school years ago."

The event is held every year to give students from high-needs schools a chance for a big holiday party, said Yusuf. Funds and supplies for the party come from sponsors, and not from student fees.

"We do believe in giving back to the community. Edmonton gives a lot to us. This is an opportunity where we as a student organization can give back to the city of Edmonton and give back to the kids,"



Three students from St. Jerome Elementary School show off their Pandas and Golden Bears pride at the Students' Union Christmas Party for Kids.

he said. "The neatest thing is that when we phone a lot of these schools, they just can't believe what we're offering. It's nice that we can do something that's so unexpected and fun."

That was certainly the case when Marilyn Landreville, principal of St. Jerome, read the fax that was sent to her school.

"It said 'Would you like to come to a free Christmas party for your whole school?' and I said, 'Am I reading this correctly?' How many times do you get something that is totally free, that is good for your kids?" she said. "They have really reached out to the community and I'm so grateful. To be invited to something like this is just amazing,

where people are reaching out to children whose Christmas may not be as good as some others in the city – it's just beautiful."

For one student from St. Elizabeth, the event marked her last day at the school before she moved. Jyoti, a Grade 4 student, knew exactly what her favourite part of the day had been. "This!" she said, holding up her half-eaten, highly decorated Christmas cookie. But, the singing placed a close second, especially Jingle Bells, "because I know all the words."

Beyond cookies and carols, the trip to the U of A has an even bigger benefit for her students, said Landreville.

"St. Jerome is a science-focused

school," she said. "The fact that they can come to the university like this, to see what a university is, is wonderful. Just to be here in the atmosphere of the university, so the kids can say 'I've been to the university,' is amazing."

To see the volunteers out at the event, helping with crafts, handing out pizza and cookies and singing along, also sends a message, said Landreville.

"They're in the midst of exams. I am so grateful for the time they're giving to this, it's such a beautiful thing to do."

"They all sound like angels," she said. "To see kids happy is the most important thing. There are no sad faces here today. We're going to be talking about this for a long time." ■

Amrhein re-appointed as provost and vp-academic

Begins second term at University of Alberta

By Richard Cairney

The University of Alberta has renewed Dr. Carl Amrhein's appointment as its provost and vice-president academic.

The U of A Board of Governors approved the re-appointment on Dec. 8. U of A President Dr. Indira Samarasekera said Amrhein has proven himself to be an asset to the university.

"Dr. Amrhein has been an exceptional leader for our institution, ensuring that portfolios and goals are aligned toward achievement of the university's vision, *Dare to Discover*," she said. "His contributions to the University of Alberta have been transforming and inspirational. He is an extremely valuable part of this institution and is helping to advance our university into the league of the world's great universities. I look forward to continue working with him."

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"Dr. Amrhein has been an exceptional leader for our institution, ensuring that portfolios and goals are aligned toward achievement of the university's vision, *Dare to Discover*."

— President Indira Samarasekera

Some of Amrhein's most notable achievements, she said, include the integration of Augustana Campus into the U of A, overseeing the creation of the School of Public Health and the transformation of Native Studies to a full faculty, helping to establish the Alberta Universities Association and, with Vice-President (Research) Dr. Gary Kachanoski, overseeing the development and approval of the U of A Academic Plan, entitled *Dare to Deliver*.

And that's just to name a few of Amrhein's accomplishments. And he agrees that it sounds like a lot.

"It's been like a 3-1/2-year marathon," he joked. "But I like running. The faster the better."

Amrhein joined the U of A in September, 2003, after serving as dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science at the University of Toronto, at a time when public funding was the university's greatest challenge.

"We were still in some financial difficulty, we were still handing budget cuts out to the deans," Amrhein said, adding that he worked closely with Vice-President (Finance and Administration) Phyllis Clark on financial matters.

"That is all behind us. We have reinvested in the professoriate, this year we will reinvest in the support staff, and that all comes under a new president with a new vision - *Dare to Discover*."

"We are not finished yet. We still have operating budget deficits, we still have student-teacher ratios that are out of kilter with our peer group, but we have a sense of optimism and upward trajectory here."

Amrhein said he's proud of the completion of the Academic Plan, *Dare to Deliver*. "It represents something of a capstone for my first term," he said.

He and Kachanoski jointly oversaw the project, consulting widely with faculty, students and staff. Three U of A professors, Drs. Heather Zwicker, Renee Elio and Ken Zakariasen, distilled those consultations



Dr. Carl Amrhein

and numerous U of A reports to write the new academic plan.

"We practice a form of collegial governance that is rare," he said. "Gary Kachanoski and I have very few words in that academic plan - it is a document written by professors, debated by professors, staff and students . . . our General Faculties Council owns that document in a very real sense."

Dr. David C. Johnson, president of the Association of Academic Staff: University of Alberta (AAS:UA), said the association has a good working relationship with Amrhein.

"The association has very much appreciated his willingness to listen and understand our perspectives on a variety of issues and we are certainly pleased with his efforts with regard to the academic plan, which incorporates a number of perspectives which the AAS:UA sees as very favourable," he said. "The association looks forward to the vision for our university, as put forward by the president, being enacted by the provost."

Other points of pride for Amrhein are the way Augustana Campus and Campus Saint-Jean, the university's French-language faculty, "have become very much a part of the thinking of the university. We understand their importance to the reputation of the university."

"During the next five or six years I'd would like to finish or continue work on the quality of the undergraduate program. Scholarships for students are a big issue - I worry about that - it is part of access and affordability," he said, adding that he's also interested in increasing international experiences for students "and building a professoriate that is the envy of the country and beyond."

"With the funding that is available we should be able to rebalance the professoriate-support staff ratios. We have a fair amount of work to do on the ratios. One of the largely invisible projects I'd like to work on is succession planning to encourage people to take on administrative positions in the academy" ■

Diminutive hummingbird's secret: a big brain

Research explains how birds hover

By Phoebe Dey

University of Alberta researchers have pin-pointed a section in the tiny hummingbird's brain that may be responsible for its unique ability to stay stationary in mid-air and hover.

"This was a very exciting moment for us," said Dr. Doug Wong-Wylie, Canada Research Chair in Behavioural and Systems Neuroscience and psychology professor at the U of A. "As soon as we looked at these specimens it was obvious that something was different in the hummingbirds' brains than other species."

Wong-Wylie and Dr. Andrew Iwaniuk, also from the U of A Department of Psychology, compared hummingbird brains to the brains of 28 other bird species, obtained from the National Museum of Natural History, the Field Museum of Natural History and the Louisiana State University Museum of Natural Science.

Hummingbirds are well known for

their wing speed and ability to hover and fly forward and backward with more precision than a helicopter. It is critical that the hummingbird remain perfectly still as it feeds itself while darting in and out of flower blossoms with pin-point accuracy. The bird must be able to maintain a stable position space, despite the fact that their wings are beating 75 times per second and that disruptive effects such as wind gusts could throw them off.

Much work has been done on the hummingbirds' physiological makeup - such as its enlarged heart, high metabolic rate and specialized wing kinematics - but no research had been conducted on the neural specializations of the bird.

"Part of the reason this type of work hasn't been done before is because of access to the birds," said Iwaniuk. "In Canada, especially, they tend to be uncommon. They come from exotic locales and they are not

easy to catch, so we were very fortunate to be able to study the specimens we did."

The scientists found that a specific nucleus - one that detects any movement of the entire visual world - was two to five times bigger in the hummingbird than in any other species, relative to brain size. The hummingbird's brain is smaller than a fingertip.

"We reasoned that this nucleus helps the hummingbird stay stationary in space, even while they're flying," said Wong-Wylie. "These birds must have a good opto-motor response considering they are stationary 90 per cent of the time. This specific nucleus is likely responsible for that."

Wong-Wylie and Iwaniuk plan to continue this line of research and have hummingbirds track visual motion while watching the nucleus to see how it reacts.

This research is published in *The Journal of Comparative Neurology*. ■

folio

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Spider man looks for answers in the forest

PhD candidate concerned about spider diversity in Alberta

By Bev Betkowski

Dave Shorthouse admits he's obsessed with spiders, so it wasn't at all unusual for him to spend two years in the forests of the Peace River country, collecting and counting the critters for the good of the environment.

The biological sciences PhD student at the University of Alberta spent a chunk of his childhood in Ontario romping with the family dogs in the woods behind his home, looking for spiders. Love 'em or hate 'em, everybody knows them, and that's part of the appeal for Shorthouse. "I just step back and listen to anyone's conversation. We all have a spider story."

He was in his third year of a degree at Carleton University when he sat through a lecture on spiders during an entomology course. "That's when the light bulb went on and I became fascinated with the sheer diversity of them. And we know so little about them."

There are 1,500 to 1,600 species of spiders in Canada, of all shapes and sizes. To earn his PhD in biology, Shorthouse is examining the diversity of spiders in the Clear Hills forest in the Peace River and Hinton areas of Alberta, as a way to help forestry companies find the best methods to reclaim harvested land.

By determining how many different spider species are living on reclaimed land, companies can work on a plan on how to best harvest their timber, Shorthouse said. In his research, Shorthouse worked on lands that had been set aside for research purposes by Daishowa-Marubeni International Ltd. He set 850 plastic beer-style cups 14 centimetres deep into the forest floor in an area that spanned an area 10 by five kilometres.

He found that 183 different species tumbled into his cups - that's an astounding 45,000 spiders, which sounds like a lot, but is really "just a drop in the bucket," Shorthouse said.

He also discovered after counting and identifying the spiders, that there was less diversity in clearcut forest. The creatures tended to run in circles in these areas as Shorthouse learned when he went back into the field to track them. "In undisturbed forest, they moved in more of a linear direction." He's unsure why this is the case, but says this change in behaviour helps explain why there is a low diversity of spider species.

"I found a prevalence of three or four different species in a clearcut forest where there should have been 100 species. It's no good to have half a dozen species, but thousands of one and very few of another."

It's believed that high diversity is linked to high productivity in a habitat, "a place where species can flourish," he said.

"I found a prevalence of three or four different species in a clearcut forest where there should have been 100 species. It's no good to have half a dozen species, but thousands of one and very few of another."

— Dave Shorthouse

Spiders, which sit at the top of their food chain, not only control insect populations in a healthy forest community, but they also serve as food for birds.

The prevalent family of spiders Shorthouse found in the Clear Hills forests cups was the wolf spider, which numbered 65 hairy-legged hunting species. The forest is also home to money spiders, so-named for the old British legend that if you found one in the cupboard, it was weaving a pouch of money. But it yielded a different bonus during Shorthouse's study - one of discovery, when he found a new species of the family in 2002. It has since been entered into the Canadian National Collection in Ottawa.

Shorthouse, who is in the process of writing his thesis, will use his findings to help forestry companies find the most environmentally responsible way to harvest trees. He's been developing predictive equations that Daishowa-Marubeni International can plug into its computers to create what-if scenarios for different ways of logging.

"It helps them do their very difficult job," said Shorthouse. Forestry companies are under increasing regulatory and market pressure to harvest trees in an ecologically responsible manner, but the playbook guiding their decisions is incomplete, so information like this helps, he said.

Shorthouse is a champion for the crawlly critters in other ways, too. Besides his PhD research, he runs the Nearctic Spider Database, a North American site where he compiles data sent in by collectors and curators. He also edits the Canadian Arachnologist, a newsletter that circulates in Canada and the United States. To raise funds for both those projects, he recently conducted a public competition for spider pictures. The winners are featured in a 2007 calendar.

He can also dispel a few myths about spiders - for one, Daddy Longlegs, which aren't a spider at all but members of a



Dave Shorthouse conducts field research.

different order of arachnids, called Opiliones. They are not venomous and can't puncture human skin. Female spiders don't lay eggs in human ears. And there are no documented cases of anyone in North America perishing from the bite of a Black Widow spider. (There are only about six species in Canada whose venom is potent enough to harm humans.) What most people mistake for a spider bite is usually just

an allergic reaction to something else.

"And here's the big one: 99 per cent of spiders are not in the least bit deadly. They are only 'poisonous' if you choose to eat a bunch of them," said Shorthouse.

Shorthouse's research was supported by a grant from the Alberta Conservation Association, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council and the University of Alberta. ■



Wolf spiders are a big part of Dave Shorthouse's research.

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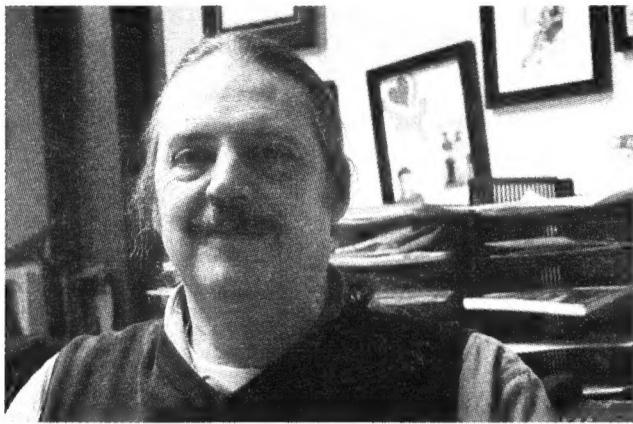
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The other side of the story

Academics weigh in on the media

Stories and photos by Richard Cairney, Geoff McMaster and Caitlin Crawshaw



For educational psychology professor Dr. Dick Sobsey, dealing with media is just part of the job.

"The chance to talk to media is a chance to connect with other people and get one's thoughts out there," he said. "To me, in some ways, if you don't get your message out to people, it doesn't make a difference. It may make a difference to me personally if I discover something...but if I can't share that with other people, it doesn't have a lot of value."

Yet, Sobsey has first-hand experience with the downside of interacting with the media.

Years ago, he was quoted in a Calgary newspaper article about violence against people with disabilities, one of the researcher's areas of expertise. It was a good story, he says, but when the same article was reprinted in a Florida newspaper, the story took on a different flavour completely.

"It ran with a large picture of me, and the headline, 'Perverts rape cripples.' The story itself was okay, but just sort of the sensationalism of the headline made a big difference to the story. I think that's the kind of negative side for me... sometimes when the message gets out there, it wasn't exactly the message one thought one was giving."

However, Sobsey hasn't stopped dealing with the media. He figures that any interview has the potential to be mostly good or mostly bad but "very few are really extremely one way or the other. But, rather than focus in on the details - 'Did they spell my name wrong? Is that exactly what I said?' - I think it's important to look at the big picture. To me, the big picture is much more helpful than hurtful." ■



Not every media piece about her research has been completely factually correct, but Dr. Cindy Jardine maintains that she's had "nothing but positive interactions with the media."

Jardine, an expert in risk communication, is a firm believer that the success of articles depends upon a "symbiotic relationship" between journalist and academic, in which both parties meet their needs.

"(Reporters) need something that's going to intrigue people and we need to help supply that aspect of it, while helping you to write a story that's factually correct and well-balanced," said Jardine.

"I've never had an occasion where the media has not made every attempt to be well-balanced if they have had the opportunity to do so. It's only when they're given part of the story, or when people won't talk to them at all, that we end up with unbalanced stories."

While the debate over the value of theoretical versus applied knowledge continues, Jardine believes scholars should not only be adding to a body of knowledge but sharing their knowledge with a broader community.

"If I'm not doing things to help people understand risks or the problems in creating dialogues around risks, then I'm not doing my job. I'm ultimately doing it to make those situations better for everyone involved," said Jardine.

"If my work is strictly getting into the peer-reviewed literature and is no use to the people, or not getting to the people who might benefit from some of the things I'm learning, then I don't feel I'm doing my job. And the media's the best way for us to get those kinds of stories out." ■



When Dr. Arturo Sanchez-Azofeifa had the opportunity to participate in the Aldo Leopold Leadership program, a crash-course for academics and researchers in dealing with the media and policy-makers, he jumped at it.

Sanchez-Azofeifa, a professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, feels academics have a "moral responsibility" to educate the public about their research findings, through the media.

The public debate about climate change issue the Kyoto Accord is a great example of a situation in which academics can share their expertise, he said.

"Many of my colleagues took the initiative to write letters to the editor about a very important initiative, about the goal of environmental protection in developing countries and how the media tend to forget the plight of others," he said. "That was a very good example of professors trying to educate the public."

He admits that not all of his dealings with the press have been fruitful.

"I once spent countless hours talking to a journalist in Costa Rica... and then the photographer takes a picture and they ask for graphics - and the story never gets published. It's frustrating, but it isn't a reason to throw in the towel."

It's important to understand that journalists "are on tight deadlines and their understanding of the time continuum is very narrow compared to the one we have as academics," he said. They also have to compete for space in their own newspapers or newscasts.

"They are working on four or five stories at a time and of those, maybe only one gets published. They are not only on a tight deadline but they also have to compete with the four or five stories the other journalists are working on. And maybe a refinery exploded. Or a guy goes berserk and kills someone in a mall - and there goes the space for your story." ■



When you hear Dr. Dave Coltman's name, chances are you're thinking, 'Oh yeah, that Sasquatch guy.'

The wildlife geneticist received huge media attention last summer when he was asked to analyze a bit of fur from the Yukon. It was found near a spot where witnesses claimed to have seen a furry, human-like beast. Coltman determined the fur was from a regular bison, but the mere suggestion of the legendary creature made him famous overnight. It also left him a little dismayed.

"For the most part, they quite fairly portrayed what we did and our conclusions, which we framed objectively (albeit tongue-in-cheek)," said Coltman. "However, the sensationalism and maelstrom of hype that surrounded the story was surprising. It was just a bit of whimsy after all, and I'm sure there were more important things to report on."

Coltman says that relating to the media is an important and necessary part of his job: "My research is publicly funded; therefore I have an obligation and duty to share my findings with the public."

But he admits to being less than impressed with the spin of university research, which too often ends up reduced to a tantalizing hook, with little thoughtful context.

"I do feel increasingly cynical about how the mainstream news media are motivated and how information is packaged. News reporting is, by necessity, becoming more and more compact and précis in the electronic era, therefore you need your story to be boiled down to a few bite-sized 'newsworthy' pieces for the media."

"You need to be careful that the caveats and context of what you are trying to say doesn't get lost in the translation and spin. On the other hand, I would also add that there is a lot of good science coverage out there in more specialized media like the Discovery Channel and science magazines." ■



Political scientist Dr. Linda Trimble is the go-to commentator on a range of issues concerning women in politics - from how they are represented in media to gender inequality in government. When sexism rears its ugly head on Parliament Hill (as it did, for instance, in relation to Environment Minister Rona Ambrose's hair, or Liberal MP Belinda Stronach's relationship with Tie Domi), she's often the one who cries foul.

It's a big responsibility, but one she embraces without hesitation. Talking to the media "allows us to educate the public about political life," she said. "Media provides the lens through which citizens 'see' politics, as few people experience political action first hand. So it's crucial for political scientists to serve as a conduit between the media and the public."

"For instance, one of the most enjoyable bits of media work I've ever done was commenting on the Charlottetown Accord for a local radio station's coverage (called *Your daily constitutional*). I was able to translate complex constitutional issues into everyday language, helping make Canada's constitutional order accessible to Edmontonians by demystifying key elements of the debate."

"I should confess that I am grateful for new colleagues' enthusiasm for talking to the press, as my interest in talking to every reporter on every issue related to Canadian or Alberta politics has waned. These days I pick and choose reporters and issues, focusing on my areas of research interest." ■

Industrial Research Chair makes the cut

Research chair celebrates term renewal with United Way head shave

By Ileiren Byles

Sporting a new Mohawk hairstyle, Dr. John Shaw is ready to take on the next five years as Industrial Research Chair (IRC) in Petroleum Thermodynamics.

Shaw, a University of Alberta specialist in the phase behaviour and thermo-physical properties of hydrocarbon, isn't one to keep the rewards to himself. He used the celebration of the renewal of his term as IRC to raise more than \$4,000 for the United Way by getting a partial head shave.

"If my students thought I was scary before ...," he mused, checking out his new look. "I'm going to terrify them now."

The U of A Faculty of Engineering announced the NSERC/AERI Industrial Research Chair in Petroleum Thermodynamics renewal and expansion on Dec. 6. Shaw, a professor in chemical and materials engineering, will continue to head the \$3.75-million initiative.

The research chair will stimulate development of new and improved production, transport, and refining processes tailored to the properties of specific hydrocarbon resources. While the immediate benefits of this might not be apparent in an industry that's obviously successful and "manifestly profitable," said Shaw, they are there.

"We have been pulling oil out of the ground and through pipelines to refineries and to us to heat our homes and power our cars for generations. So, why do we need to do research in this area at all?" he asked. "Yes, we can do these things, and, yes, we can do them profitably, but all too frequently we use brute force. In Alberta, for every kilogram of bitumen product we produce, we produce at least that in carbon dioxide or other waste materials."

"With improved materials property knowledge we are able to make better decisions about technology selection and technology development," he said. "Still, truly environmentally sustainable processes have yet to emerge, but we expect we'll get there. We'll work at it and we'll get there."

"If my students thought I was scary

before ... I'm going to terrify
them now."

— John Shaw

Most of the money will fund Shaw's research program, but one-third of it will go towards training Shaw's students as well, said Ray Hoemsen, manager of NSERC prairie regions.

"The NSERC industrial chairs program revolves around two things - transforming knowledge from academia to the marketplace and teaching students to be the highly trained professionals the industry so desperately needs," he said.

Dr. Ron Dyck, assistant deputy minister (research) for Alberta Innovation and Science, agreed.

"This program will help develop a cadre of oilsands experts, experts who will know bitumen from top to bottom, excuse the pun, and better still, know how to improve product quality and identify new business opportunities," he said. "This cadre will join Alberta's amazing research and technology community, created in part through these strategic investments."

The chair is sponsored by Alberta Energy Research Institute, ConocoPhillips Canada Inc., Imperial Oil Resources, Kellogg, Brown and Root, Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), Nexen Inc., and Shell Canada Ltd. The support of these agencies is evidence that Shaw's work is making a difference, said Dr. David Lynch, dean of the U of A Faculty of Engineering.

"My measure of success, when it comes to NSERC industrial research chair programs, is that the sponsors see such great value that they renew the chair programs and renew them at even larger levels of support." ■



Dr. John Shaw sports a new look for his United Way fundraiser.

Getting to know what farmers, ranchers know

Graduate student studies local ecological knowledge

By Bev Betkowski

Growing up on a ranch near Williams Lake, British Columbia, Jodie Asselin realized early on that her parents knew everything there was to know about their land, whether it was wildlife patterns or changing weather.

Later, when she began studying the idea of local ecological knowledge as a university student, she found there was little academic research about what kind of knowledge farmers and ranchers held.

"I realized there was a serious gap in published research concerning the topic. And I remember my parents always knew so much about their land and yet had so little say about policy," Asselin said.

Asselin believes farmers and ranchers, especially those who've lived on their land for generations, have valuable knowledge to offer government, developers and industry when it comes to determining policy, and she also believes they've been largely overlooked by these same groups.

There has been precedence in recognizing local ecological knowledge by federal and provincial governments, such as that held by aboriginal groups. Yet little work has been done in regards to the knowledge of agriculturists, such as ranchers and farmers, Asselin said.

"Those in the agricultural community have a vested interest in their land, and they know a lot about their land. There's a need to recognize local knowledge so it can be included in the development process, as well as for a meaningful consultation."



Jodie Asselin believes that farmers' knowledge of the land is relevant to land development decisions.

The University of Alberta anthropology master's student has made numerous visits to the Fort Vermilion area over the last year, looking at development issues such as oil and gas exploration, expanding agriculture, protected areas and land subdivisions. She also began surveying farmers, ranchers and other residents in the Fort Vermilion area to find out just how extensive their knowledge of the land is, how to define it, and how industry and government can glean that knowledge to better work with rural residents affected by developments.

The standard 'town hall' meetings between residents and government or industry often leave community residents disappointed and feeling unheard, Asselin has

learned. "A company or developer will ask specific questions, but a farmer might have more information than that, and there's no forum for them to put that forward."

Those who work the land are tuned to its rhythms, Asselin is discovering.

"They know the areas on their land that flood, they know areas of historical importance, they might have noticed climate change over the last 50 years, and most importantly, they know the way their community works. If there are social tensions and there is a forum for them to express that, then development, if it takes place, can occur on a more positive note," she said.

Tapping into the knowledge farmers

"I realized there was a serious gap in published research concerning the topic. And I remember my parents always knew so much about their land and yet had so little say about policy."

— Jodie Asselin

and ranchers have about their own land and then designing a plan around that (it might involve something as simple as moving a development 500 feet to preserve a local historic site), would go a long way to smoothing community relations, Asselin said. "Many companies recognize they need local input. It reduces protests and picket lines, and it makes working together easier."

Besides interviewing farmers and ranchers, Asselin is also talking with school teachers, church leaders, forestry workers and members of local development boards to find out how they define local knowledge. She's also making the rounds at pot-luck suppers, livestock auctions, local coffee shops and other community events. Residents interested in talking to Asselin can contact her at jasselin@ualberta.ca.

Her research is funded by grants from the Northern Scientific Training Program, Canadian Boreal and Arctic Research Grant and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. ■

Métis businessman pens personal journey

Walking in the woods conveys author's struggle, success

By Ileiren Byles

Herb Belcourt likes to joke that he hasn't had a paycheque since 1958.

"In 1958, I decided to work for myself," he said, while at the University of Alberta Faculty of Native Studies to launch his new book *Walking in the Woods: A Métis Journey*. "It was rewarding to work for myself, but it's not for everyone. There are a lot of risks."

Belcourt, who received an honorary Doctorate of Law from the U of A and helped fund the Belcourt - Brosseau House for Métis students at the university, told his audience that he was willing to take the risk. One of the stories related in the book explains why, he said. His first job, when he was 15 years old, was in a logging camp. When he arrived at the camp, he was presented with a bed of straw, two Hudson's Bay blankets and a canvas pillow.

"I think I sat on the edge of that bunk for a while. Then I laid down and just kicked my shoes off and I think I cried myself to sleep just thinking that I left home with all those white sheets and the clean floor that I could eat off of," he said. "It was quite a shock, let me tell you. After just a few days I was so lousy with bed bugs and lice, it was just incredible."

But the shock only helped solidify the advice his father gave him before putting him on the bus to the logging camp.

"He bought me the bus ticket and he gave me a \$10 bill. On this trip, six miles from home to catch the bus, he kept saying - and I thought it was a lecture - 'Save your money and work for yourself, because if you don't you'll carry a lunch bucket for the rest of your life,'" he said. "Those

"I think I sat on the edge of that bunk for a while. Then I laid down and just kicked my shoes off and I think I cried myself to sleep just thinking that I left home with all those white sheets and the clean floor that I could eat off of."

— Herb Belcourt

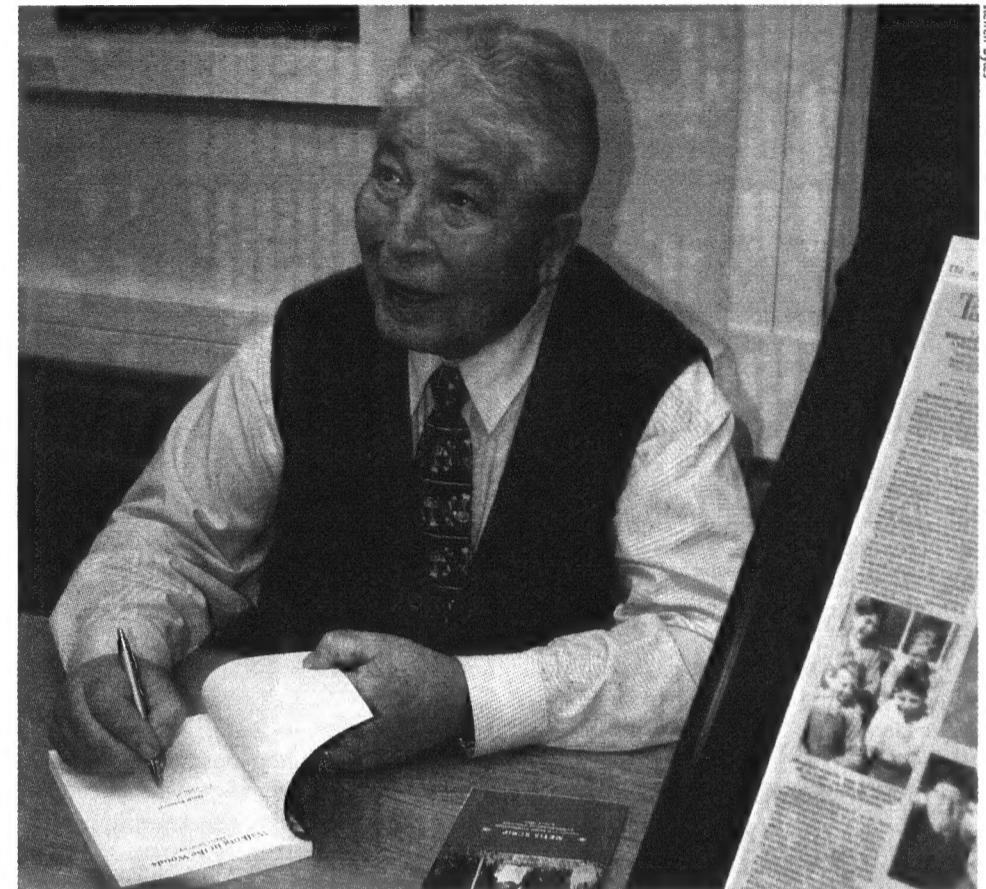
words stuck with me all of these years."

After years of hard work - in the logging camp, coal mines and installing power lines - Belcourt had saved enough to start his own successful business. He spread his success throughout his community, earning a 2006 National Aboriginal Achievement Award in housing.

"Herb strikes me as the sort of person I most admire, because he grew up in a certain way, and saw things, and decided things and then he went out to change them," said Dr. Ellen Bielawski, dean of the Faculty of Native Studies. "That, to me, is the most amazing thing any single person can do, no matter what walk of life they come from or what path they take."

Students in the faculty are also making a difference, said Belcourt.

"You people are the role models back in your communities. You people are the leaders for your communities," he said. "It's more than likely your children will get an education and your grandchildren will get



Herb Belcourt signs copies of his book at the U of A Faculty of Native Studies.

an education, because you did."

Belcourt's book looks at Métis history, as well as Belcourt's own family history. He dictated the entire project out over the course of six weeks, his wife typing it for him, before it was sent to the editors.

Already, *Walking in the Woods* has been well received. The book is currently on

Greenwoods Books' top-10 bestsellers list and is holding steady at #4 on Amazon.ca.

"When you're retired you've got nothing to do, so you write a book," he laughed. "This book will be around for many years and it will be used and some of it will be criticized, but that's what makes a good story." ■

Kreisel's *The Rich Man* makes its mark

Novel re-released 15 years after author's death

By Melissa Boisvert

Fifteen years after his death, Henry Kreisel, former chair of the University of Alberta's Department of English and Film Studies and vice-president (academic), was honoured with the re-release of his first novel.

The new edition of *The Rich Man* was recognized at a Dec. 1 event at the Timms Centre recently, hosted by the Faculty of Arts' Canadian Literature Centre (CLC). Extolling Kreisel's impact on both the academic world and the larger community, CLC director Stephen Slemmon took advantage of the celebratory atmosphere to announce a second tribute to the guest of honour - the centre's new annual 'Henry Kreisel Memorial Lecture.'

The Rich Man was first published in 1948, but was recently selected to be re-released in several cities across Canada as part of a Jewish literature series from Concordia University in Montreal, in partnership with Red Deer Press in Calgary. As a tribute of Kreisel's love for drama, the event featured a small acting troupe that performed vignettes from a theatrical version of the book.

Kreisel was born in Vienna in 1922 and fled to England immediately before the outbreak of war in 1938, only to be declared an 'enemy alien' along with many other Jewish refugees from Germany and nearby countries. He was sent to an internment camp in Canada, where he resided for more than 18 months from 1940 to 1941.

The Second World War had created an air of sensitivity surrounding Jewish life, and many writers were hesitant to approach the topic; nevertheless, Kreisel chose to embrace his experiences and use them as a catalyst for what would become a well-respected writing career.

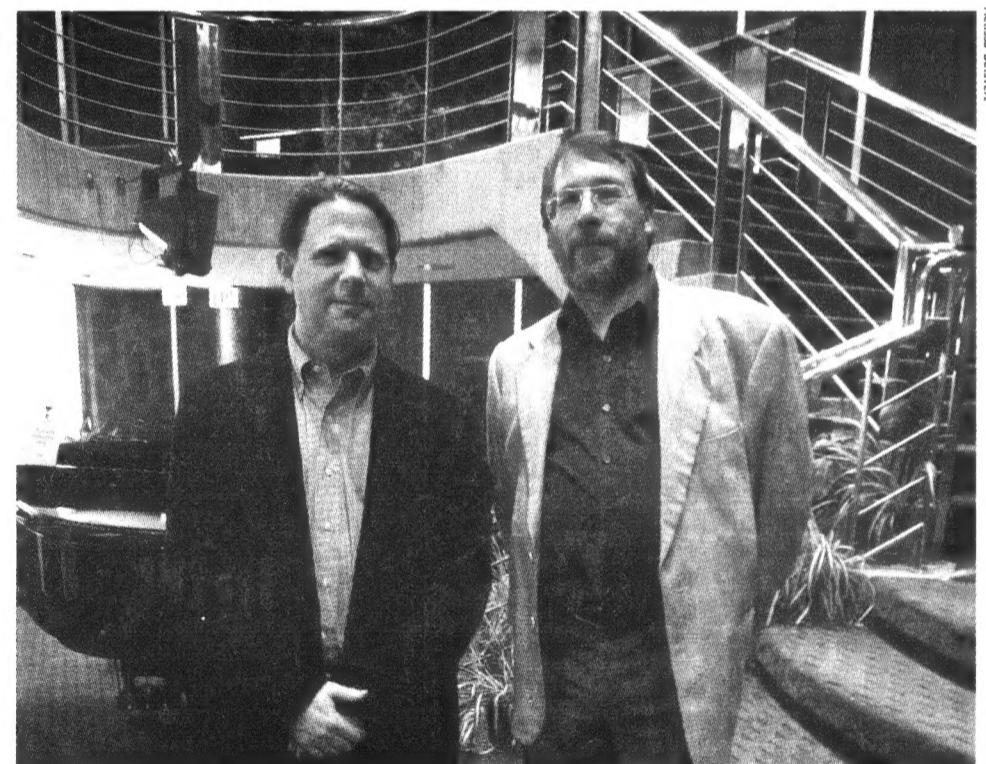
"*The Rich Man* explores the gulf between North American and European existence, the true meaning of a Canadian passport, the view taken by a range of pre-war Jewish personalities in the rise of Nazism and Fascism and the character of Jewish-Canadian city life in the years before the war"

— Norman Ravvin

Using his knowledge of pre-war Europe to write *The Rich Man*, he proudly and fearlessly gave the post-war reader a rare peek into pre-Holocaust Jewish life. His protagonist, Jacob Grossman, is a worker in a Toronto sweatshop who returns to Vienna in 1935 to visit the family he left behind many years before. The novel describes Jewish life in central Europe during the rise of fascism and the Nazi party.

Norman Ravvin, chair of Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University and editor of the new edition of *The Rich Man*, spoke at Friday's event. He reflected that many Canadian Jewish writers are born in Canada and, consequently, have little personal knowledge of pre-war Europe.

Kreisel's experiences, however, equipped him for a unique, dualistic point of view that he used to his advantage when writing about Jewish life. According to Ravvin, *The Rich Man* is likely the first



Dr. Norman Ravvin, chair of Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University (left), with Henry Kreisel's only son, Phil.

book on Jewish themes that was written by a Jewish writer and published by a mainstream Canadian publishing house.

"*The Rich Man* explores the gulf between North American and European existence, the true meaning of a Canadian passport, the view taken by a range of pre-war Jewish personalities in the rise of Nazism and Fascism and the character of Jewish-Canadian city life in the years before the war," said Ravvin. "These things were not written about in English by Jews in the years immediately after the war, out-

side of the Jewish press. They were certainly not presented in books by mainstream publishers."

In recent years, *The Rich Man* had been largely forgotten. Ravvin, saddened by the thought, used Concordia University's new series as an opportunity to resurrect what he considers to be a literary treasure.

Kreisel's first publisher, McClelland and Stewart, included *The Rich Man* in its new Canadian library in 1961, a collection that contained literature they considered to be "indispensable to the literary life of Canada." ■

Belle of the ball

Staffer helps young women make their debut

By Zoltan Varadi

They say one should never judge a book by its cover – and Nelda Hinds might agree.

You'd think for someone who has invested so much of their time in the tradition of the debutante ball, as Elena Lirio has, that not ever having had one of her own would add up to a terrible disappointment.

"I don't mind," said the office manager for the Strategic Analysis Office, whose own 18th birthday passed without the heavily orchestrated celebration of the ball, a popular tradition in the Filipino community. Then she amends her answer, "I guess I wish that I did have one."

Yet, while she's never been the principle participant of the elaborate festivities, as a dance teacher she's been party to many.

"When I watch these presentations, it makes me so happy, because this is something you cannot forget. This is something you take with you for the rest of your life, and that goes from generation to generation."

— Elena Lirio

"At the end (of the party), they will say the acknowledgments, and they will call us on the floor and give us a bouquet of roses... and, you know, I am a star, too! And I am the biggest fan of these kids."

Lirio has been teaching dance moves for cotillion parties since 1974, when she immigrated to Canada, but it wasn't until the early '90s that her services have been in high demand, due to a resurgence of the tradition in Edmonton's Filipino community.

"I kept hearing, 'There's an eighteenth birthday, do you know who's teaching?'" she said. "All of a sudden, out of the blue, everybody wanted to have a debutante ball."

Lirio says the origins of the ball, or cotillion, in the Philippines can be traced back to revolutionary France. Similar events

marking a girl's 18th birthday are still a tradition all over Europe, the United States and Central America. However, not everyone is aware of its origins, she notes.

"When I started teaching here in Edmonton, I started giving the background that it originated during the French revolution and I got criticized for it. Over time it built up in their minds that we adopted it from the Spaniards."

Preparation for a ball can take anywhere from three to five months of rehearsals explains Lirio. The birthday girl and a group of her friends will ultimately perform a number of dances on the big day, including waltzes, cha-cha's, tangos and even hip hop dancing.

As for the hip-hop moves, Lirio leaves the teaching up to her niece, who, along with her nephew, comprise something of a family team – one that has been so successful that now her two assistants are beginning to see a demand for their talents on their own.

"There's a competition going on now. But I don't mind that," she laughed.

Currently there is a bit of a lull in activity on the debutante front – no girls seem to be turning the magic age in the next while, but Lirio says she uses the downtime to listen to music and think of new moves.

"I do my own choreography and I do not repeat. My last debut was last year, but some years we don't have any. But one time, in 1999 I believe, I had six going on and that was really very difficult," she said.

Of course, another benefit of having a breather is that Lirio has an opportunity to reflect on the good times she's had so far; listening to her speak of these times leads you to believe that each experience is as precious to her as to the families who have enlisted her services.

"I am able to bring the debutante and their family memories, and when they get older and have their own families they can show video or pictures and say, 'Look, this was when I eighteen,'" she said.

"When I watch these presentations, it makes me so happy, because this is something you cannot forget. This is something you take with you for the rest of your life, and that goes from generation to generation."



Christie Anne Pedrola stands before her cake at her 18th birthday party.



Staffer Elena Lirio shows off photos of her 'kids' at their debutante parties.



Birthday girl Stacey Pedrola dances with her escort Valentine Villatoro.



Stacey Pedrola and friends during a Phantom of the Opera-themed dance number choreographed by Lirio.

Music prof earns prestigious prize for good conduct

Earns top American prize for dissertation

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Music professor Dr. Laurier Fagnan is once again hearing the sweet sound of success.

The University of Alberta Campus Saint-Jean professor recently made headlines with the opening of his Vocal Acoustics Laboratory, and previous to that, when he won a top Canadian prize for his dissertation. Now Fagnan has earned the prestigious Julius Herford Award, an award offered annually by the American Choral Directors Association.

The top American prize recognizes Fagnan's thesis as the best in North America, explained Dr. Leonard Ratzlaff, Fagnan's PhD supervisor and nominator for the award.

"Laurier's paper is the first dissertation from a Canadian university to be recognized in this way," said Ratzlaff, who won the same award in 1987 while at the University of Iowa.

"His dissertation is ground-breaking in that it seeks, for the first time, to measure with sophisticated recording equipment and specifically designed software the improved sound a choir can make if its singers apply specific principles of the bel canto method of singing."

The bel canto method is an Italian singing technique that has been practiced for more than two centuries by voice teachers around the world, but had not been applied to choral music until Fagnan's research.



Dr. Laurier Fagnan has earned an international award for choral music research.

His research involves using specialized devices and computer programs to measure the energy and vibration of sound, which graph the data and provide information on the sound quality. This is information that Fagnan has always judged by ear, having conducted hundreds of workshops on the bel canto method with Canadian choirs. "Now it's great to see the

measurable difference with the eyes in the software, as well," he said.

While knowledge of the science behind the sound is important for Fagnan's work, art is always at the forefront of his mind.

"What interests me in all of this, is making choirs sing beautifully. As far as I'm concerned, the buck always stops at the sound."

"What interests me in all of this, is making choirs sing beautifully. As far as I'm concerned, the buck always stops at the sound."

— Dr. Laurier Fagnan

For Fagnan, the Julius Herford Award is a "great honour" which came as quite a surprise.

"I had forgotten I had been nominated...so when I received the e-mail saying I had received the prize I was quite taken aback and quite humbled that my colleagues in the United States would have found my research worthwhile and worth receiving the award," he said.

In fact, Fagnan says he couldn't have anticipated any of his recent successes, but chalks them up to the fact that he chose an area of study that was "virtually untapped" has contributed to his early success.

He also attributes it to the support he's received, as well as the sheer fun of the job.

"If you do what truly impassions you and get other people excited about their abilities in your area, things are bound to go well. As a voice teacher and choral conductor who gets paid to improve people's vocal abilities and make singers sound as beautiful as they possibly can, I probably have one of the best jobs in the world." ■

Educational researcher connecting drama and incarcerated youth

Researcher helps kids at risk

By Dawn Ford

Diane Conrad admits to having "at-risk" experiences in her youth. In part, they are what compels her award-winning research in drama and incarcerated youth.

A drama professor in the University of Alberta Department of Secondary Education, Conrad is winner of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) 2006 Aurora Prize for her vision in the transformative potential of drama in the education of incarcerated youth. Awarded to Canada's most promising up-and-coming research stars, the prize is given to scholars who are building a reputation for exciting and original work in the social sciences and humanities.

Conrad believes that drama can offer hope in directing youth away from crime.

"If education is to have a transformative impact, it must find ways of turning the resistance in young peoples' responses to the wielding of institutionalized authority from destructive to productive ends," said Conrad, who argues that drama can invoke positive social change.

Over the next two years, Conrad and her graduate students will be facilitating a series of participatory drama workshops with a group of incarcerated youth at a young offenders' facility in Alberta.

Ultimately, Conrad and her team aim to find ways of reducing the harm to both society and youth through drama - to transform the socially transmitted patterns of behaviour that commonly contribute to and result from offending youth behaviour.

"In education, 'at-risk' students are those in danger of failing or dropping out of school or have already failed or dropped out," said Conrad. "But the label portrays youth, their families and communities as deficient or deviant by focusing on ways

"If education is to have a transformative impact, it must find ways of turning the resistance in young peoples' responses to the wielding of institutionalized authority from destructive to productive ends."

— Diane Conrad

that they need to change in order to meet society's expectations."

Although the Canadian justice system has taken measures via the new Youth Criminal Justice Act to address youth crime through a more caring, community-based approach, Conrad says that incarceration, when imposed, still deals a "punitive blow" with traumatic effects for youth.

She proposes a social action model to imbue a sense of self-worth and purpose and will help youth foster future commitments and aspirations.

"As drama deals with human behaviour as its subject matter, individuals may become more aware of the motivation behind their own behaviour. Acting out allows exposure to situations and viewpoints beyond participants' immediate experiences. It also gives individuals who are most affected by the prison system a voice in the process of institutional change," she says.

Working with youth labelled "at-risk" is not new for Conrad, who has worked in inner-city high schools, a youth-drop-



Diane Conrad believes that Drama can help youth to discover a sense of self-worth and purpose..

in centre, a young offender facility and two communities in Canada's Northwest Territories. She emphasizes that her research depends on the participation and input of the youth she is working with.

And as a self-professed rebel in her own youth, Conrad has a lifetime of experiences to draw on in addition to her work as a researcher and teacher.

"I think part of what I'm trying to do

through my research is understand better what my risky experiences as a youth were all about, what motivated such behaviour and how I survived."

"Drama was something that gave me an opportunity in the school context to be myself, express myself, to explore who I was and wanted to be in the world. I have heard the same from others including the kids with whom I research." ■

Issues of aging tackled by multi-generational cast

'Intergenerational theatre' a unique collaboration

By Lisa Ricciotti

Am I invisible?" The final line of a scene, spoken by a 62-year-old actor in a wheelchair, is almost shocking in its directness. The question reverberates through the small audience of 50-some seniors, University of Alberta students, faculty and friends, either striking a chord of understanding or creating an eye-opening jolt of guilty recognition.

Over the next 90 minutes, many provocative questions would be raised and stereotypes shattered as eight U of A students and six senior actors together confronted one of the most difficult themes of the human experience – aging.

The unusual mid-afternoon performance in the Fine Arts Building on Dec. 7 was the result of a semester-long experiment in what U of A drama professor David Barnet likes to call "intergenerational theatre."

Offered for the first time during the fall semester, the new course's goal was to span the generation gap through collaboration between students and the GeriActors, a local theatre company of seniors that writes and performs its own material. As a member of GeriActors himself, Barnet set the idea in action. Although students from any faculty or department were welcome, the final eight were selected based on their interest and experience in seniors' issues, community development and performer-created theatre.

The chosen students met weekly with GeriActors members downtown at the Seniors' Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE). "We weren't sure what we would end up with," Barnet cheerfully admitted. "At first we thought we'd write a play. Then we started having so much fun playing together, exchanging stories and ideas, that we just kept the process going without finalizing our sessions into a polished, scripted performance."

The experience proved to be a learning experience for both groups.

"I hadn't spent much time with older people," said drama student Jozel Campbell-Lemire. "One of the most impor-

"One of the most important things I learned is not to consider them as 'old people.' In fact, there's no 'them' – you can't lump older people together as one group. They're people just like us, only with more experiences than we have."

– Jozel Campbell-Lemire

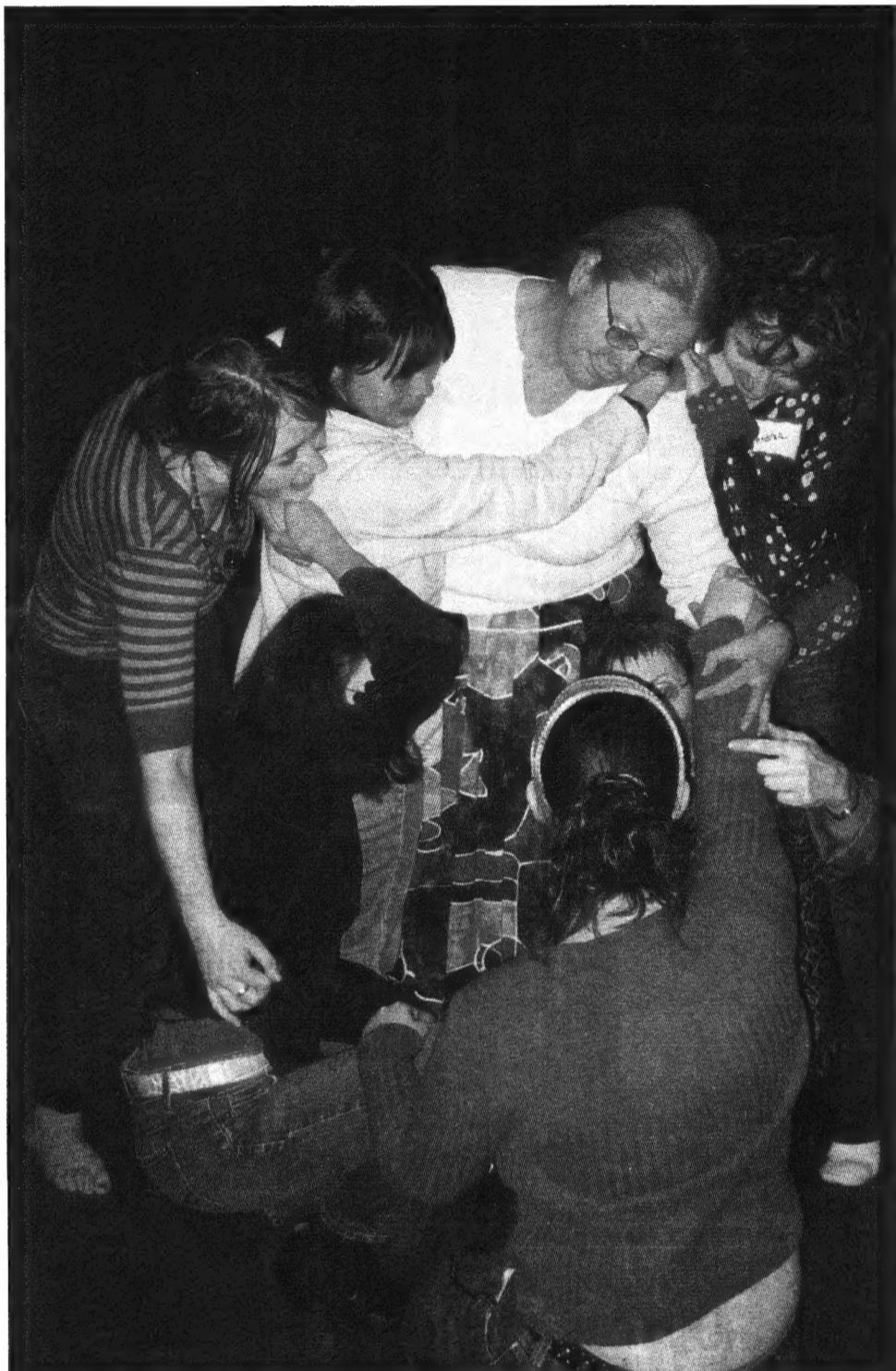
tant things I learned is not to consider them as 'old people.' In fact, there's no 'them' – you can't lump older people together as one group. They're people just like us, only with more experiences than we have."

At the other end of the spectrum, GeriActors John Grootelaar discovered "a new appreciation for the younger generation. So often the media portrays kids in a negative light, but these students were great."

The short scenes, presented for the first time at the end of the course, grew out of the real-life situations and experiences of both students and seniors. For example, asking GeriActors to discuss when they first became aware of their own aging resulted in memories of a middle-aged, daring venture into the nightlife of The Purple Onion, only to discover that the young man offering to buy a drink was a former student. Both students and seniors were encouraged to see the world through a different set of eyes by having students take on the roles of the older generation and having seniors play teenagers.

Judging by the audience's appreciative response, intergenerational theatre is ready for a larger audience. "We need to see more," said one viewer. "This course needs to continue."

David Barnet would be happy to oblige – at least until his upcoming retirement in May: "We have so much to learn from each other, old and young. This was a very positive experience for everyone." ■



(Clockwise) Katherine Keim, Jozel Campbell-Lemire, Naoko Hisakawa, Jane Heather, Andrea Boyd, Jan Henderson and Nicky Renault; Dianne Unger, Diane Conrad and Janette Miller; Jean de Koning and Janette Miller.



Enterprise Square update



An elaborate Christmas window display at the Edmonton downtown Bay store in 1960. For many decades, Edmontonians delighted in Bay's holiday window displays.

All dressed up for the holidays

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Every city has its holiday traditions, and for decades visiting the downtown Bay store at Christmas was an Edmonton ritual.

Now the University of Alberta's Enterprise Square, the building was known for its elaborate Christmas displays that filled the windows of the large department store. Generations of children stood gaping at the newest, most exciting toys and other wonders.

Gary Bodnar vividly remembers his family's trips to the Bay store during the 1960s and '70s. "The Bay downtown had these wonderful, animated, fairly detailed window displays," said Bodnar, director of General Faculties Council services at the U of A. "They were actually quite spectacular."

The inside of the store was also elaborately decorated, he adds. "When Christmas rolled around, they did a great job of decorating the interior. As a kid going into the store with your parents, you were awestruck by the decorations and the feeling that Christmas was on its way."

As a young man growing up during the early '50s in Edmonton, Barry Temple recalls many a shopping trip downtown during the holiday season – and one of the major stopping points was the Hudson's Bay store.

"At that time, and probably up until 1989 really, it was the most spectacularly decorated building in the downtown area," said Temple, the U of A's associate director of infrastructure and one of the minds behind the Enterprise Square project. "All of the large display windows that were part of the building were filled with Christmas decorations. The building, in its later years, had additional electrical services put in; there were things like lighting fixtures and, at one point, a moving Santa's sleigh and reindeer."

Last year the University of Alberta purchased the historic building, which had sat almost completely empty for years. When renovations are complete next year, Enterprise Square's main tenant will be TEC Edmonton, a research commercialization centre run jointly by the U of A and the Edmonton Economic Development Corporation. The building will also house Alumni Affairs, Development and Advancement Services. Non-university tenants include CHUM TV and the Edmonton Art Gallery, which will use Enterprise Square as a temporary home until 2010. ■



If you thought Wii was amazing...



Robyn Taylor, a computing science PhD candidate, takes a virtual look at a Haida mask at the U of A's \$1.5-million virtual reality lab known affectionately as 'The Cave.'

Canada Research Chair appointments open path to discovery

U of A receives \$6.7 million for five new CRCs

By Bev Betkowski

A new appointment as the Canada Research Chair (CRC) in Cardiac Transplantation will give University of Alberta researcher Dr. Lori West the freedom to follow different paths to help heart-transplant recipients.

"What the Canada Research Chair allows us to do is move forward in more than just one specific area of transplant-related research and that's really helpful for allowing us to make headway in understanding these patients," said the new CRC, who came to the U of A in 2005 from Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children. "If we're interested in looking at the quality of life 10 years after an infant heart transplant, we have a way of proposing a study in that area. If we think of a new collaboration with a partner we normally wouldn't collaborate with, we have the resources to maybe do a pilot study we might not have done before."

"Those things help you foster fruitful lines of inquiry and creative thinking because you're not quite so restricted by the availability of resources."

The U of A has received \$6.7 million for five new CRCs, as well as for three funding renewals on existing chairs. The federal government announced recently that Drs. Murray Gray and Zhenghe Xu, both in chemical and materials engineering; Dr. Brenda Parlee, in rural economy and native studies; Dr. Simonetta Sipione, pharmacology and West, in pediatrics, have each been appointed to a Canada Research Chair and will each receive between \$500,000 and \$1.4 million.

Sipione, Chair in the Neurobiology of Huntington's Disease, investigates the role of cholesterol in the disease.

"We all know that an excess of cholesterol is detrimental to health. However cholesterol is also an essential component of any cell," said Sipione. "The brain cannot utilize dietary cholesterol, so it must produce endogenously all the cholesterol it needs. If brain cells become unable to synthesize and transport cholesterol the consequences may be devastating for the nervous system."

"We have found that cholesterol metabolism is dysregulated in Huntington's disease brains. We believe that this dysfunction may be important for the development of the disease," she said.

"What the Canada Research Chair allows us to do is move forward in more than just one specific area of transplant-related research and that's really helpful for allowing us to make headway in understanding these patients."

– Dr. Lori West

Sipione's work could eventually lead to better understanding of other brain disorders as well.

"Cholesterol has been implicated in other neurodegenerative disorders.

For example, aberrant cholesterol metabolism may contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease. And there are other neurological diseases, mostly inherited, which are due to mutations in specific proteins involved in cholesterol synthesis and transport."

The financial backing provided by the CRC announcement is welcomed by Sipione, as she's in the process of setting up a new lab in the U of A's Department of Pharmacology.

"This is a great opportunity for me and the CRC will allow me to establish a new and promising line of investigations in Huntington's disease."

Gray was named Canada Research Chair in Oil Sands Upgrading; his work will help improve the quality and yield of oil while decreasing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions in the industry. As Chair in Mineral Processing, Dr. Xu will explore the best ways to separate bitumen from the oil sands that is friendly to the environment and cost-effective. Parlee, Chair of Social Responses to Ecological Changes, focuses on how northern communities are responding to resource development, and their potential role in decision-making related to resource management.

In addition to the new CRC allotments, renewals of \$500,000 each have been approved for Dr. Subir Bhattacharjee, Canada Research Chair in Colloids and Complex Fluids; Professor Tim Caulfield, Canada Research Chair in Health Law and Policy, and Dr. Thomas Stachel, Canada Research Chair in Diamonds. ■

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talks & events

Submit talks and events to Lorraine Neumayer by 12 p.m. Thursday one week prior to publication. **Folio Talks and Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in Folio and on ExpressNews at: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm>.** A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca.

UNTIL APR 10 2007

Graduate Student Support & Strategy Group (GS3G) Offers grad students a comfortable and supportive environment to: Discuss concerns/challenges/experiences related to being a grad student (e.g., supervisory relationships, conducting research, teaching, thesis writing, defense preparation?) Develop effective problem-solving and coping strategies related to these areas Share and hear about other students experiences? Individuals will not be able to attend without meeting with the facilitator prior to the group. If you wish to RSVP online and choose to leave your phone number and/or e-mail address, we will contact you to schedule an appointment with the facilitator for a pre-screening appointment. If you choose to RSVP online with only your name, please contact Student Counselling Services to book an appointment. Register By: Ongoing 2:30 - 4 p.m. 2-600 Students' Union Building (SUB) <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/counselling/gs3g.cfm>

UNTIL FEB 23 2007

Awards for Teaching Excellence (Call for Nominations) Nominations are now being sought for the annual Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, WH Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award. Complete information on the awards and the nomination process is available in the University of Alberta Policies and Procedures On-Line (UAPPOL) system, under the parent policy "Awards for Teaching Excellence." Nominations are made by Faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those Faculties. Nominations should be made through a Faculty committee and submitted by the Faculty to the Secretary of GFC UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone needing assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office (492-2644). The deadline for receipt of award nominations. In most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures. University Hall https://www.conman.ualberta.ca/stellent/groups/public/@academic/documents/policy/pp_cmp_060320.hcsp

UNTIL FRIDAY DEC 22 2006

HO! HO! HO! Scholarship Promotion Enter to win one of two \$350 scholarships courtesy of HUB Mall! PLUS, one of three \$150 gift certificates for Hudsons on Campus. Simply bring a new toy for Santas Anonymous or a non-perishable item for the Campus Food Bank, and you will receive an entry form to win! Each donation allows you an entry form--the more the merrier! Contest open to all full time UofA students. Call 492-5609 for details. Room 209 HUB Administration office HUB International <http://www.ualberta.ca/hubmall/events>

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UNTIL DEC 23 2006

Ike Bushman: Science = Magic This exhibition is the final visual presentation for the degree of Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking. The opening

positions

The records arising from this competition will be managed in accordance with provisions of the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPP). The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity of employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal persons. With regard to teaching positions: All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. For complete U of A job listings visit www.hrs.ualberta.ca.

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA AUGUSTANA FACULTY PSYCHOLOGY

As part of a dynamic, multi-year program of renewal and growth at the University of Alberta's Augustana Campus, the Department of Social Sciences invites applications for a tenure-track position in Psychology at the rank of assistant professor, commencing July 1, 2007.

Area of specialization is open; however, the successful candidate will teach a range of undergraduate courses including principles of psychological assessment, statistical methods for psychological research, and advanced experimental design. The successful candidate will also be expected to develop new courses in their area of expertise that contribute to the existing program. The discipline offers the opportunity to teach small classes at all undergraduate levels and mentor senior research students. Applicants should possess or be near completion of a PhD.

The Augustana Faculty teaches more than 1,000 students in baccalaureate degree programs on a picturesque residential campus in the city of Camrose, 90 km southeast of Edmonton. The Faculty is committed to building on its reputation for rigorous, high-quality teaching in the tradition of the liberal arts and sciences, and, in doing so, providing a distinctive undergraduate academic experience for students within one of Canada's leading universities. It seeks to attract promising scholars who will share its enthusiasm for teaching in a small-campus environment, participate actively in a collegial culture of inquiry and public engagement, and flourish as researchers in an undergraduate, interdisciplinary, and rural location.

The ability to contribute to areas of interdisciplinary strength and interest for the Faculty will be an asset. Those areas include environmental studies, international development studies, rural and northern studies, and women's studies.

For information about Augustana and particular programs, please consult the Faculty webpage at www.augustana.ca. Inquiries concerning this position should be directed to Dr. Jeremy Mouat, chair of social sciences at Jeremy.Mouat@ualberta.ca.

Applicants should submit curriculum vitae, including evidence of successful teaching and samples of scholarly work, and arrange to have transcripts and three confidential letters of reference sent to:

Dr. Roger Epp
Dean
Augustana Faculty
University of Alberta
4901-46 Avenue
Camrose, AB, T4V 2R3
Email: Roger.Epp@ualberta.ca

The Committee welcomes applications at any time and expects to begin considering candidates as early as January 2007. Consideration will continue until the position is filled.

FACULTY OF NURSING CONTRACT POSITION

Seeking a consultant with a background in knowledge translation

A large research team needs periodic advice on knowledge transfer or knowledge translation. This contract position, involving a set fee of \$1,000 per year, is a win-win situation. The successful applicant and the team will both have the satisfaction of knowing that research findings are being used to inform health services planning and health policy. Funding for this work is through a 5-year program of research on rural end-of-life care.

Knowledge transfer/translation skills and a health care background are required. Please apply if interested, and provide written information on your background and your availability to advise over this year or additional years.

Please e-mail responses to Dr. Donna Wilson: donna.wilson@ualberta.ca

ENDOWED CHAIR IN ISLAMIC STUDIES FACULTY OF ARTS

The Interdisciplinary Program of Religious Studies in the Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta, invites applications for an endowed chair in Islamic Studies, at the level of associate or full professor, who will engage in the study of the diverse traditions, cultures and interpretations that form the Islamic world, the history of its rich intellectual and cultural heritage, and its relationship with other societies and faiths. The candidate will be appointed jointly to the Program of Religious Studies and a suitable department in the Faculty of Arts. Research period and specialization are open, but the candidate should anticipate teaching courses that broadly cover the history, ideas, and practices associated with Islam. The successful applicant will be expected to develop, in cooperation with other programs and departments, areas in Islamic Studies that fall within her or his area of expertise, to participate in a growing graduate program, and in the university's ongoing and successful efforts to engage with Muslim communities. Desirable strengths include competence in theories of religion in an interdisciplinary context and in issues of diversity in Islamic traditions and cultures. Applicants must have a completed PhD in Religious Studies, an established record of research publication and evidence of ongoing research potential, and skills as appropriate for effective research in Religious Studies. Hiring decisions for this position will be made on the basis of demonstrated research capabilities, teaching ability, the potential for interdisciplinary collaboration, and fit with departmental needs.

Established in 1908 as a board-governed, public institution, the U of A has earned the reputation of being one of the best universities in Canada based on our strengths in teaching, research, and services. The university serves over 35,500 students in more than 200 undergraduate programs and 170 graduate programs (www.ualberta.ca/). The Faculty of Arts is the oldest and most diverse faculty on campus, and one of the largest research and teaching centres in western Canada (www.arts.ualberta.ca).

Applications, including a curriculum vitae, letters from three academic referees, and sample publications, should be sent by mail to:

Dr. Willi Braun
Director, Program of Religious Studies
1-53 Humanities Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
T6G 2E5

All applications received by Jan. 31, 2007 will be considered. Salary and rank will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. For further information, contact Dr. Braun at (780) 492-2879 or by email at willi.braun@ualberta.ca.

BIBLIOTHÉCAIRE EN CHEF BIBLIOTHÈQUE SAINT-JEAN, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LIBRARIES

Le réseau des bibliothèques de la University of Alberta, reconnu depuis longtemps pour l'excellence des services qu'il offre à l'université et aux communautés, est à la recherche d'une personne dynamique pour prendre en charge le fonctionnement et le développement de la Bibliothèque Saint-Jean (BSJ). Le poste de bibliothécaire en chef implique la gestion des ressources humaines, financières et matérielles de la BSJ, y compris le développement des collections, la planification et l'établissement des priorités quant aux services, l'évaluation des résultats et la supervision du personnel (8,5 postes). Oeuvrant au sein d'une équipe, la personne choisie contribuera à la gestion globale des bibliothèques par l'entremise du Library Operating Group, participera aux activités du Campus Saint-Jean et assumera le rôle de chef de file dans le développement des services de bib-

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Le fonds documentaire de plus de cinq millions de volumes du réseau des bibliothèques de la University of Alberta en fait la deuxième plus importante bibliothèque de recherche au Canada. La bibliothèque entretient un lien unique avec la communauté élargie, d'une part grâce à son appartenance au réseau NEOS, un consortium de 18 bibliothèques des milieux gouvernemental, hospitalier, collégial et universitaire, et d'autre part par l'entremise de la Alberta Library. Visitez notre site Web à l'adresse suivante: <http://www.library.ualberta.ca/francais/>.

La Bibliothèque Saint-Jean fait partie du réseau des bibliothèques de la University of Alberta. Sa mission principale consiste à desservir le corps professoral et les étudiants du Campus Saint-Jean, ainsi qu'à appuyer les programmes d'étude et de recherche qui y sont offerts. Le Campus Saint-Jean est une faculté francophone qui se distingue au sein de l'univers anglophone de la University of Alberta. Le Campus offre des programmes menant au BA, au BAA (conjointement avec la Faculty of Business), au BSc, au BSclnf Bilingue (conjointement avec la Faculty of Nursing), au BScEnv Bilingue (conjointement avec la Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics), au BEd, au BEd/BSc, au BEd/AD (après diplôme), à la Maîtrise ès arts (Études canadiennes) et à la Maîtrise en éducation. La langue principale d'enseignement au Campus Saint-Jean est le français. La collection de la BSJ comprend 200 000 volumes et 350 abonnements à des périodiques. Classée selon le système de la Library of Congress, elle couvre les domaines des arts et des humanités, des sciences sociales, des sciences de l'éducation et des sciences pures. La BSJ est une bibliothèque de dépôt sélectif pour les publications en français du gouvernement fédéral et une bibliothèque de dépôt pour les films de langue française de l'Office national du film. Elle offre également une importante collection de documents pédagogiques et de littérature pour la jeunesse, organisée selon la classification Dewey et celle de la Library of Congress. Bien que le français soit la langue d'enseignement et de recherche au Campus Saint-Jean, les membres du personnel de la BSJ travaillent également en anglais lors de contacts avec leurs collègues anglophones, les usagers externes et le grand public.

Les candidates posséderont une MBSI décernée par une école de bibliothéconomie reconnue et une expérience professionnelle d'au moins trois à cinq ans, y compris une expérience de la supervision. Les entrevues se dérouleront en anglais et en français. Les candidates manifesteront un souci du service à la clientèle, des habiletés exceptionnelles pour la gestion, d'excellentes techniques d'enseignement et de communication, un engagement vis à vis la résolution coopérative de problèmes et des habiletés marquées en gestion de l'information.

Ce poste de bibliothécaire menant à la permanence se situe au niveau 2. Le salaire varie actuellement entre 65 571\$ et 104 291\$. Les bibliothécaires à la University of Alberta font partie du personnel académique et bénéficient d'un généreux programme d'avantages sociaux. Le concours prend fin le 30 novembre 2006. Les candidates sont priées de faire parvenir, par courrier régulier, télexcopieur ou courrier électronique, un curriculum vitae et le nom de trois répondants à:

Karen Adams

Director of Library Services and Information Resources

Cameron Library

University of Alberta Edmonton, Alberta

T6G 2J8

Télécopieur: (780) 492-8302

Courriel: karen.adams@ualberta.ca

Fondée 1908 à titre d'institution publique dirigée par un conseil, la University of Alberta a mérité sa place parmi les meilleures universités canadiennes grâce à son excellence dans les domaines de l'enseignement, de la recherche et des services. La University of Alberta dessert une population de plus de 36 000 étudiants et offre plus de 200 programmes de premier cycle et 170 programmes d'études supérieures (www.ualberta.ca). Le campus principal de l'université est situé à Edmonton, capitale cosmopolite de la province de l'Alberta. La région métropolitaine d'Edmonton se classe au sixième rang à l'échelle du pays avec une population d'environ un million d'habitants (<http://www.edmonton.ca/portal/server.pt>). La ville d'Edmonton accueille de nombreux événements culturels et offre un réseau développé de sentiers et de parcs riverains. De plus, elle est située à seulement quelques heures de route des parcs nationaux de Banff et de Jasper, paradis des skieurs en hiver et des amateurs de randonnée durant la saison estivale.

Le Campus Saint-Jean, est une partie intégrale de la University of Alberta. Il s'agit d'un petit joyau francophone (600 étudiants) croissant au cœur de l'Ouest canadien dans un environnement anglophone. Les étudiants vivent donc une expérience unique en son genre. Comme la moyenne d'étudiants par salle de cours est peu élevée, la qualité de l'éducation des étudiants en est rehaussée.

La nomination des employés à la University of Alberta est fondée sur le mérite. L'université respecte le principe d'équité en matière d'emploi.

Elle favorise la diversité dans le milieu du travail et encourage toute personne qualifiée, femme ou homme, y compris les autochtones, les personnes handicapées et les membres des minorités visibles, à poser sa candidature.

HEAD LIBRARIAN BIBLIOTHÈQUE SAINT-JEAN, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LIBRARIES

The University of Alberta Libraries, with a long tradition of service excellence to the university and its communities, seek a dynamic individual to take responsibility for operation and development of the Bibliothèque Saint-Jean (BSJ). The Head Librarian manages the human, financial, and physical resources of BSJ including development of the collection, planning and setting priorities for service, evaluation of outcomes, and supervision of 8.5 staff. Working within a team environment, the successful candidate will contribute to the overall management of the Libraries through the Library Operating Group, will participate in the activities of the Campus Saint-Jean and take a leadership role in the development of French language library services in Western Canada.

The University of Alberta Library is Canada's second largest research library, with a collection exceeding five million volumes. The Library has a unique relationship with the broader community through NEOS, a central Alberta consortium consisting of 18 government, hospital, college and university libraries and through The Alberta Library. Visit our website at <http://www.library.ualberta.ca>.

The Bibliothèque Saint-Jean is part of the larger University of Alberta Libraries system. Its mission is to serve the staff and students and support the programs of study and research of the Campus Saint-Jean. The Campus Saint-Jean is a French language faculty within the English language environment of the University of Alberta. The Campus offers the BA, BAA (jointly with the Faculty of Business), BSc, BSclnf Bilingue (with the Faculty of Nursing), BScEnv Bilingue (with the Faculty of Agriculture, Forestry and Home Economics), BEd, BEd/BSc, BEd/AD (After Degree), MA (in Canadian Studies) and MEd programs to students in the French language. The Bibliothèque Saint-Jean collection (200,000 volumes, 350 serials) contains resources in the arts and humanities, the social sciences, education and pure sciences, classified according to the Library of Congress. It is a selective depository for federal government publications and a depository for French language films from the National Film Board. It also has an extensive collection of curriculum materials and children's literature arranged in the Dewey classification as well as Library of Congress. While the French language is the language of teaching and research at the Campus Saint-Jean, staff of the Bibliothèque Saint-Jean must work equally well in English in order to communicate with their English-speaking library colleagues, external users and the public.

Qualifications will include an MLS degree from an accredited library school and at least three to five years relevant experience, including supervision. The interview will be conducted in both English and French. Applicants must possess a strong service orientation, superior management skills, excellent instructional and communications skills, a commitment to cooperative solutions and superior information management skills.

This tenure-track position is classified at the Librarian 2 level with a current salary range of \$65,571 to \$104,291. Librarians at the University of Alberta have academic status and participate in a generous benefits program. Closing date for the position is Nov. 30, 2006. To apply please mail, fax or e-mail your resume and the names of three references to:

Karen Adams
Director of Library Services and Information Resources
Cameron Library
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2J8
Fax: (780) 492-8302
e-mail: karen.adams@ualberta.ca

ACADEMIC COORDINATOR OF CLINICAL EDUCATION FACULTY OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Applications are invited for a full-time clinical track contract position in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Alberta. The position is available as early as April 1, 2007.

As a department in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, Physical Therapy offers an innovative course based MScPT program that integrates strong clinical and evidence based practice skills. The department also participates fully in the interdisciplinary MSc and PhD programs in Rehabilitation Science. The department currently consists of sixteen full-time faculty members.

This Assistant Professor position is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the clinical education program. This includes development of placement sites, liaising with clinical supervisors and advising students as required. This position may also involve some entry level teaching in the MScPT program. Applicants must possess a mini-

mum of a Master's degree and be eligible for licensure with the College of Physical Therapists of Alberta. Knowledge of clinical education/supervision is an asset. This is a 3-year renewable appointment. The initial appointment is at the Assistant Professor level and salary will be commensurate with experience.

For further details about the position or the department contact Dr. R.G. Haennel (chair) at Bob.Haennel@ualberta.ca or phone (780) 492-2889. Website: <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/rehabmed/PhysicalTherapy.cfm>

Qualified applicants should send a curriculum vitae, a statement of clinical education and teaching interests, and the names of three (3) referees to:

Dr. A. Cook, Dean
Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine
3-48 Corbett Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G4
Phone: 780-492-5991
E-mail: albert.cook@ualberta.ca

Applications will be reviewed as they are received and will continue until the position is filled.

CLINICAL SUPERVISOR FACULTY OF EDUCATION CLINICAL SERVICES

The Faculty of Education Clinical Services welcomes applications for the position of Clinical Supervisor. The Faculty of Education Clinical Services delivers intensive practical training and supervision for the master's and doctoral level practicum courses in the Counselling Psychology and School Psychology programs. It maintains facilities for counselling individual, family, group, and play therapy. It also maintains facilities for administering psychoeducational, educational, behavioural, personality and career assessments.

Reporting to the chair, Department of Educational Psychology, the clinical supervisor provides supervision, consultation and management to students including PhD Interns, Master's practicum students and PhD practicum students. Supervision is required to assist graduate students in developing the knowledge, attitudes, and applied skills necessary to meet the range of problems a professional psychologist may expect to confront.

This key position is responsible for providing graduate students with regular, ongoing evaluative feedback (written and verbal) and for monitoring students' behaviour so that it meets the regulated standards of the Canadian Psychological Association.

We are seeking applicants who possess a doctoral degree in counselling or clinical psychology and who are Registered Psychologists and in good standing with the College of Alberta Psychologists (CAP). Candidates must have at least five years of practical clinical experience in a hospital, community or private practice setting. The successful candidate will be knowledgeable of and competent to administer and interpret psychological instruments and complete psychological reports.

This is a full-time Administrative Professional Officer position with a salary range of \$54,342 - \$86,038 per annum and comprehensive benefits package.

Review of applications will begin Jan. 5, 2007, and will continue until the position is filled. To apply, send your curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three individuals to contact for references to:

Dr. Robin Everal, Department Chair
Department of Educational Psychology
Faculty of Education
University of Alberta
6-102 Education North
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2G5

Faculty of Science University of Alberta

Announcement Faculty of Science Research Award

We are seeking nominations for the Faculty's most promising young scientists for this annual award, which recognizes outstanding research achievement.

Nominees must have obtained their doctorates in 1995 or later.

Deadline:
January 15, 2007

For details of eligibility and conditions, please contact:

Dr. Renée Elio
Associate Dean (Research)
E-mail: ree@cs.ualberta.ca
(780) 492-3169
or
Crystal Moore
(780) 492-7488
crystal.moore@ualberta.ca

Faculty of Science Award for Excellent Teaching

We are seeking nominations from students and departments in the Faculty of Science for this annual award for individuals with outstanding qualities in undergraduate teaching.

Deadline:
January 19, 2007

For details of eligibility and conditions, please contact:

Dr. Brenda Leskiw
Associate Dean
E-mail: bleskiw@ualberta.ca
(780) 492-9452

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FSIDA (FUND FOR SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES) APPLICATION DEADLINE

The deadline for receipt of applications to the FSIDA is 4:30 PM, Jan. 15, 2007.

This Fund exists to enable staff and graduate students of the University of Alberta to participate in the international transfer of knowledge and expertise and graduate research through partnerships in developing countries.

Applications and guidelines are available on the University of Alberta International website www.international.ualberta.ca or from the FSIDA Secretary at University of Alberta International, 1204 College Plaza, 8215-112 Street, telephone 492-2391.

ALAN BLIZZARD AWARD

The Alan Blizzard Award was developed by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (STLHE) to stimulate and reward collaboration in teaching, and encourage and disseminate the scholarship of teaching. The award is given to collaborative projects that increase the effectiveness of student learning. The first Alan Blizzard Award was given in 2000; teams from the University of Alberta received the award in 2000 and 2003.

The deadline to submit applications to STLHE for the Alan Blizzard Award is Jan. 12, 2007. The application form is available at <http://www.mcmaster.ca/stlhe/awards/alan.blizzard.award.html>. Inquiries may be directed to Aline Germain-Rutherford, Alan Blizzard Coordinator, STLHE, at agermain@uottawa.ca. More information and assistance is also available from Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, Academic Awards and Ceremonies, at 492.2644 or via email at bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca.

2007-2008 KILLAM ANNUAL PROFESSORSHIPS

Applications for the 2007-2008 Killam Annual Professorships are now available. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2007-2008 are eligible to apply. Deans, department chairs and other senior university administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate deans and associate department chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 prize and a commemorative plaque. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a

record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be a record of substantial contributions to the community outside the university, above and beyond what is usually expected of a professor, as evidenced by community involvement normally directly linked to the applicant's university responsibilities and activities. However, other forms of community involvement will be considered, especially, but not exclusively, where the applicant's discipline does not readily lend itself to making community contributions, and also where the university's reputation is clearly enhanced by the applicant's contributions.

Awards are tenable for twelve months commencing 1 July 2007. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 3-7 University Hall, by 4:30 pm, Friday 23 February 2007. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in October 2007.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at <http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/vpsearch/>

Please contact Annette Kujda, Administrative Officer, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 28342 or email: annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

THE EDMONTON AGING SYMPOSIUM – DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

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Intended audiences: policy-makers, health care professionals, researchers, and educated laymen. Cost: \$95 for students and \$140 for academics. Includes breakfast and lunch.

Sponsored by the University of Alberta, City of Edmonton and The Methuselah Foundation. Location: Bernard Snell Hall, University of Alberta Hospital, 112 Street and 87 Avenue.

Contact Kevin Perrott, Department of Biochemistry at: 780-983-8383 (phone), 780-492-0886 (fax) or at kevin.perrott@edmontonagingsymposium.com. Web site: <http://www.edmontonagingsymposium.com>

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TEACHING UNIT AWARD

The GFC University Teaching Awards Committee (UTAC) announces to the University community that nominations are now being sought for the annual Rutherford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the WH Alexander Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the Teaching Unit Award.

The purpose of these awards is to recognize excellent teaching, to publicize such excellence to the University and the wider community, to encourage the pursuit of excellence in teaching, and to promote informed discussion of teaching and its improvement at the University of Alberta.

Nominations are made by Faculties that teach undergraduate students, and information about the nomination procedures and adjudication criteria has been sent to those Faculties. Nominations should be made through a Faculty committee and submitted by the Faculty to the Secretary of GFC UTAC, 2-5 University Hall. Anyone needing assistance and advice in preparing nominations should contact Ms Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office (492-2644). The deadline for receipt of award nominations is Friday, February 23, 2007 at 4:30 pm. In most cases, individual Faculties have established earlier deadlines to allow for internal adjudication procedures.

Award recipients are publicly recognized at a special reception, at Convocation, and at the Celebration of Teaching and Learning. They also receive a memento and a cash prize. The prize is awarded to the recipients as a cheque.

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UofA School of Business Dean, Mike Percy demonstrates good form as he enters the icy waters.

As **COLD** as it gets

Dean, students take icy plunge for charity

By Caitlin Crawshaw

Despite the bitterly cold temperatures that marked the start of December, a warm-hearted crew took the plunge at the first annual Chillin' for Charity polar bear swim.

Nearly 200 spectators were in attendance as Dean Mike Percy of the School of Business kicked off the fundraiser by leaping into an ice-cold pool at Quad Dec. 1.

"The only way you can do it is get it over quickly. The alternative of walking in, or putting a toe in – that's worse."

Dr. Mike Percy

Percy admits the experience was "bone-chilling," and says he'll gladly take part in the event again.

"I'm not sure if the next time I'll do a complete canon ball, because I landed with a lot of force, and the water wasn't that deep," he said.

While he may change his technique next year, Percy says his strategy will remain the same. "The only way you can do it is get it over quickly. The alternative of walking in, or putting a toe in – that's worse."

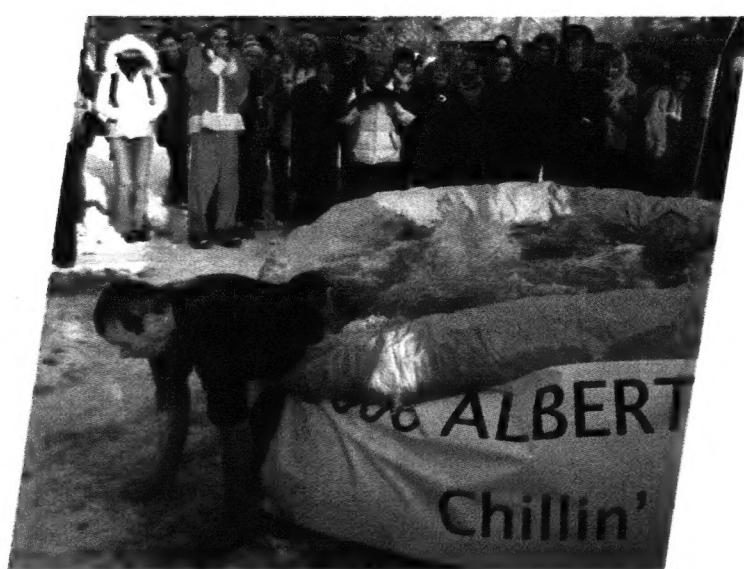
More than 25 people took part in the event and raised nearly \$5,000 for the United Way.

The event was organized by the U of A School of Business JDC West team, a student group that annually compete in a three-day competition for business students from Western Canada. The event is "an elite, academic case competition," explains Sean Collins, JDC West VP Internal. But it's not just about academics. The competition has social, athletic and charity components as well.

The third-year business co-op student credits Percy's participation in the event for its overwhelming success. "Once we attached his name to the event, everything fell into place – we had more donations," he said.

Percy says he was delighted to support both the United Way and the JDC West team.

"It was a way for me to support a group of highly motivated, conscientious students," he said. "We're very proud of these students." ■



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